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ATA celebrates positive tourism results for 2011



ORANJESTAD -- Last Friday, the Aruba government together with the Aruba Tourism Authority, their Board of Commissioners, employees and tourism Partners met together for a festive end of the year get together. They came together to bid good bye to 2011 which was a very positive year for Aruba's tourism!

The Minister reminisced a bit about the process of the privatization of the Aruba Tourism Authority and recalled the uncertainty that most felt about the changes. However, today the ATA with its own budget, own management, own Board of Commissioners has succeeded in moving ahead successfully. They had envisioned an increase of

about 3%, but today they can rejoice over the remarkable 5.6% growth in tourism!

The government applauded everyone for the significant part they played in the success of Aruba's tourism for 2011.

After the official part of the gathering they lit the traditional end-of-the-year fireworks (the pagara), which was blessed by some rainfall. This was followed by a delightful time of socializing in a pleasant ambiance as they continued to celebrate the positive results of their efforts for the year 2011.

The ATA indicated that they are intent on continuing this positive trend into 2012 and vows to make 2012 just as positive as was 2011.

Iowa opens 2012 White House contest



Texas Governor and Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry speaking at the Hotel Pattee in Perry, Iowa. (AFP)



Republican presidential candidate, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich speaks at a campaign stop. (AFP)

DES MOINES (AFP) - Iowa fired the first shot of the 2012 war for the White House yesterday with a keenly watched but unpredictable vote on which Republican should take on President Barack Obama come November 6.

The caucuses in Iowa came against the backdrop of a sour, job-hungry US economy that weighs heavily on the embattled Obama's bid for a second term four years after he promised his historic 2008 victory would offer "hope and change."

"He's out!" Romney, a former Massachusetts governor and millionaire venture capitalist, told cheering supporters in a kick-off rally in downtown Des Moines, Iowa's capital, hours before the caucus. "I will get America working again!"

At 7:00 pm (0100 GMT Wednesday), Iowans from the state's 1,774 precincts all headed to school gymnasiums and cafeterias or church basements to hear speeches from their neighbors on behalf of the candidates and then vote.

The quirky process's strength lies in its timing: As the first nominating vote, it can set the tone for the rest of the state-by-state battle, lift or bury a sagging campaign and add luster to a shining presidential prospect.

The candidates made a final blitz across Iowa, mindful that the winning margin in the 2008



Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney (C) greets supporters during a campaign rally in Des Moines, Iowa, yesterday. (AFP)

caucus was 10,000 votes out of just 120,000 cast -- a fraction of Iowa's two million registered voters.

Unpredictable Iowa -- where unemployment is well

below the national average -- is also an unreliable predictor of presidential fortunes: Senator John McCain, the eventual nominee in 2008, came in fourth that year.

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Aruba Hospital making significant improvement in reducing the incidence of bedsores



ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital is working diligently to reduce the percentage of patients suffering from bedsores ("decubitus"). They have accomplished thus far a 12% reduction. The project to improve this phenomenon began back in 2009 when it was discovered that certain departments had a high incidence of patients with bedsores. To address this situation they formed a special care team with a team manager, cluster manager, and a department of quality and security. They also added a special wounds counselor together with the personnel of the nursing department in an effort to prevent bedsores among patients in the Hospital. This was also to improve the situation of

those patients who were already suffering from bedsores.

Decubitus is a wound that a patient could get from lying down for great lengths of time in the same position, or it may be caused by other factors as well. This, according to hospital information, occurs most often at the heel of the foot as well as at the tail bone.

In 2009 they discovered that the incidence of bedsores was rather high. This caused the hospital to start an action plan. The result of their action revealed that some patients come to the hospital with bedsores acquired before their arrival. In most cases this was not discovered in time, and what's more, there wasn't enough material to prevent this malady. The Hospital's action

plan included more information to nurses regarding decubitus, and better care for those admitted with the problem. This past November the Hospital's control revealed that the percentage of bedsores decreased considerably from 20% to 8%.

One of the steps in the action plan was to have a wounds specialist visit each patient admitted, also a dokter and nurse and the care manager would visit the patient. They also introduced what they call a "decubitus check" at the moment a patient is admitted to the Hospital. In the event a patient checks in with bedsores, appropriate and necessary action is taken to correct the situation. The Hospital has also employed a special nurse trained in dealing with decubitus, whose job it is to monitor the situation and provide expert guidance and corrective actions to prevent this problem from occurring.

The Hospital is very pleased with the last results which shows that they have the situation completley under control and that their efforts have resulted in a drastic reduction in the incidence of bedsores in our Hospital. Figures show a sizeable decrease from 20% to 8%. They intend to see this drop even more in the new year.

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Burgers, Fries.. & More!

Romar Trading hosts a bubbly-fest at La Bodega



An evening dedicated to sparkling wines and Champagne was recently hosted by Romar Trading at La Bodega, wine shop, on Gutenberstraat 4. The evening concluded a series of wine pairings hosted by the company's Wine Artists, over the course of the past twelve months.

The evening's mystery chef was no other than Romar Trading executive Monique Bouwer, who multi-tasked in the miniature kitchen to present a truly delectable array of hors d'oeuvres, such as Tuna Tartar, Sautéed Prawns, Smoked Salmon, Pumpkin Soup, Garlic Escargot, Sundried Tomato Quiche, assorted Dutch cheeses, chocolates and mini olibollen.

Wine artist Clive Faustin served as the sommelier, popping a variety of Champagnes and Sparkling Wines from Italy, Argentina, Chile and France, such as Torresella, Prosecco; Trivento, Brut Nature; Conch Y Toro, Sparkling Wine; Banfi, Brut; Castillero



Del Diablo, Brut; Laurent Perrier Brut and Laurent Perrier, Cuvee Rose.

A grateful crowd of wine lovers appreciated every sip of bubbly and every master-piece nibble presented by the chef for the day. Pictured here, Romar's Champagne and Food Pairing, at La Bodega Wine Shop. A new series of tastings is planned for 2012, beginning with a unique New Zealand food and wine showcase.

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Daniel Martis is Aruba's first Baby of the Year 2012

It has become an Aruban tradition that the prestigious Oduber Agencies recognizes the first baby to be born every year and showers this baby with wonderful gifts. The baby is welcomed with a basket full of Huggies products. The first baby of the year somehow typifies the beginning of a year and a new life which is one of the symbols of our celebration, according to observers.

Aruba's baby of the year is a boy named Daniel Martis. Daniel was born at exactly 12:01 midnight, exactly one minute after the beginning of the New Year. This baby was expected on the 10th of January, but he decided to make his appearance 10 days early. Daniel was delivered weighing 3900 grams with a length of 52cm. His proud parents are Melitza Martis-Werleman and Edgar Martis.

Dr. Kloosterman was the attending gynecologist and his assistant Midwife, Mrs. Helen Boekhoudt. Attending nurses were Magaly Arends and Rita Ricao.

Aruba's first baby of the year received a basket of Huggies products, which are recognized as the most loved products and most used among



mothers everywhere.

The last baby to be born in 2011 was Damian Gotze who saw daylight for the first time at exactly 5:50AM on December 31st, 2011. Damian also received some gifts and Huggies products from Oduber Agencies.

Huggies in this manner graciously welcomed two babies into our world and on Aruba soil with their beloved products. Oduber Agencies congratulates the parents of these boys and their entire families and wishes them a wonderful 2012.

The Morning News certainly applauds Oduber Agencies' wonderful generosity and

outstanding example of love in action for our fellowman.



Photos describes the happy faces at seeing the new babies with their parents and Rhona Dijkhoff

Emergency Department saw less fireworks victims this end-of-the-year

ORANJESTAD -- The Emergency Department of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital treated relatively less fireworks victims during the past end-of-the-year weekend compared to the year 2010 and 2009.

Registration of fireworks victims began December 28, 2011 up until January 2nd 2012. Up to last count at 1:00 in the afternoon on January 2nd, they had registered 7 vic-

tims who needed treatment for fireworks burns, which is 1 person less than 2010-2011.

The youngest victim was a 3 year old with a fireworks burn over his eyes. The majority of the victims were males between ages 3 to 68. Of the 7 cases none were of a serious nature needing hospitalization.

Many of the victims received burns from falling fireworks on their eyes or hands.

The Emergency Depart-

ment experienced a rather calm change of the year. On the evening of the 1st of January they attended to many patients who needed the attention of a house dokter. These were not emergency cases.

With respect to emergency cases, they treated 6 victims for physical abuse, a few with intoxication with alcohol as well as traffic accident victims.

Cas Animal Cont'd

Urgent! Volunteers needed to help young puppies survive the next few weeks



Eyes are opening

Holidays are done and it is time to get back to some routine, but for those looking for something worthwhile to dedicate a few weeks to, Cas Animal has an urgent call out for anyone willing to take in a couple of extremely young puppies for a about a month.

Kiki Arndt, founder of Cas Animal, has converted her

home into a no-kill sanctuary for Aruba's abandoned and stray dogs and cats, and been unstinting in her dedication to saving these unwanted animals for 14 years. Recently, a new litter of 7 adorable puppies were "dumped at her doorstep," and she is now seeking assistance in their survival.

They are just starting to open their eyes but are still too young to eat on their own and have to be bottle fed. Kiki has them in her refuge, but does not want to keep them there, because she knows that the Parvo virus has come in with some of the other stray dogs she has rescued off the streets. Older dogs can survive a bout of Parvo, but it is deadly to puppies, and she needs to find temporary homes for the new litter until they are old enough to get their first Parvo vaccination. She is not asking volunteers to take in the dogs permanently, though they are welcome to do so, but just to help her keep them clear of possible infection until they can get proper protection.

She would also be very happy if anyone is willing to take only 2 or 3, she does not

expect anyone to take in the entire litter. She does recommend to take at least 2, as puppies at this age need to be with other puppies to learn to socialize, otherwise it is very difficult to keep them in a canine community afterwards. She will provide bottles and formula, a cage in which to keep them, and come to help clean up after them daily.

THE MORNING NEWS has already agreed to care for 2 of the puppies; those interested in helping out Kiki in her predicament or perhaps adopting one of the older



On the bottle for now

puppies in her care can call her at 565-2130 or 742-8732. You can also report an animal in need of assistance, as she maintains an Animal Ambulance to rescue them. Her expenses for feeding all the animals she has taken in are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills. You can also help by paying on her account at the Contreras Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, or to Animal Care Clinic, phone number 582-8382, as well as directly to the bank account of Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, Kiki will assist you in the process, as it is much easier to return to the U.S. with an Aruban dog than you might think, and any would be examined and certified by a qualified vet to pass quarantine standards.

by Rosalie Klein

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THE MORNING NEWS photo contest deadline extended by popular demand

THE MORNING NEWS is extending its photo contest to the end of the carnival season

The upcoming weeks filled with fabulous events will offer many great photo ops, and your pix and win you terrific prizes and the opportunity to showcase your work for all the world to see. Visit our website: www.themorningnewsaruba.com where the online edition is read by thousands to subscribe at no cost. Each day, as

the paper is put online, you will receive an link to the current edition in your e-mail inbox; there is no cost whatsoever for this service.

Just subscribing to THE MORNING NEWS online will earn you a chance to win two tickets to Bonaire with Tiara Air Aruba, and sending in your photos will earn more raffle tickets in the box and more chances to win. The contest is open to Aruban residents and visitors alike.

Contest Rules:

1. Subscribe to THE MORNING NEWS online - it's free!!

2. Go to www.themorningnewsaruba.com, click the subscribe button and follow directions to receive THE MORNING NEWS delivered to your e-mail box daily for no charge.

3. Send an e-mail to themorningnewsaruba@aol.com to inform the office of your user name and contact

info: real name, address, & phone number, and receive 1 raffle ticket

4. Like us on Facebook, and receive a second raffle ticket

5. Raffle tickets are for final drawing on Ash Wednesday 2012;

6. Grand Prize:

Airfare for two to Bonaire with Tiara Airlines and other fabulous prizes

Photo contest prizes: You must subscribe to submit

1. Send us your favorite carnival pix via e-mail or deliver to our office on Caya Betico Croes

Just across from the Valero station.

2. "Picks of the day and week" will appear in THE MORNING NEWS

3. Contest begins today and deadline for submissions of photos is Monday, February 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM; drawing for raffle will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

4. Judging is final; winners will be announced in Friday's paper, February 24.

5. Each photo submis-



"THE MORNING NEWS photo contest makes me want to jump and dance!!"

sion earns a raffle ticket towards the Ash Wednesday drawing

Prizes for the Carnival photo Contest:

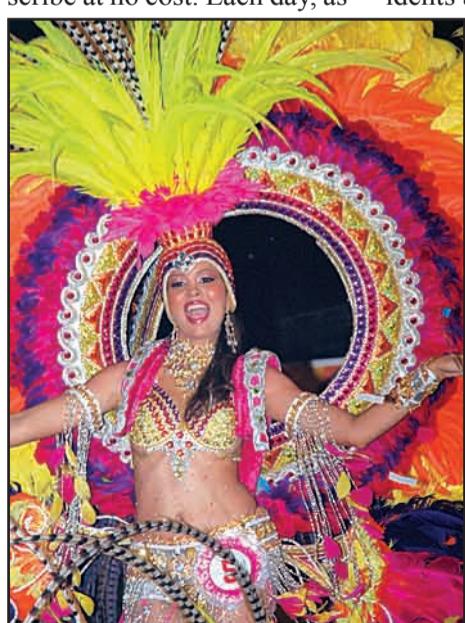
Grand Prize: 3 days/2 nights stay at Boardwalk Apartments

2nd Prize: Trip for two on Mi Dushi Sailboat

3rd Prize: Complete Play package at Cool Casino

Prize winners will receive additional raffle tickets towards final drawing, and a special surprise for the grand prize winning photo.

No purchase necessary to participate; subscription to THE MORNING NEWS and submission of photos are free; photos will only be used for Carnival promotion and owners retain all rights.



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BP sues Halliburton for full cost of Gulf disaster

WASHINGTON (AFP) - British oil giant BP is pushing US energy services firm Halliburton to pay for all the costs BP incurred in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the worst environmental disaster in US history.

In a US federal court filing, BP said that it was seeking full repayment of damages from Halliburton, alleging it fraudulently putting a defective cement seal on a deepwater well, causing a deadly explosion and pollution of the Gulf and neighboring states.

BP filed suit Monday with the US district court in New Orleans seeking damages from Halliburton including "the amount of costs and expenses incurred by BP to clean up and remediate the oil spill" and "all other costs and damages incurred by BP" related to the Deepwater Horizon rig blowout and resulting oil spill.

The latest court filing

marked an expansion of the scope of BP's April 2010 lawsuit, in which the British company had sought reimbursement from Halliburton "for all or a part of the damages, costs and expenses."

BP has spent more than \$40 billion on the disaster and could still be liable for billions in fines, compensation and restoration costs.

A BP spokesman declined to comment on the case.

In October the US government slapped BP, Transocean - - the Swiss owner and operator of the drilling rig -- and Halliburton with citations for violating oil industry regulations in what is expected to lead to massive fines.

Last week The Wall Street Journal reported that US prosecutors are readying criminal charges against BP employees, which would be the first criminal charges over the disaster.

The explosion at the Deep-

water Horizon rig on April 20, 2010, killed 11 people, and the Macondo well gushed oil into the ocean for 87 days, blackening the southern US shoreline and crippling the local tourism and fishing sectors.

By the time the well was capped, 4.9 million barrels (206 million gallons) of oil had spilled out of the runaway well 5,000 feet (1,500 meters) below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico.

BP alleges that Halliburton used defoaming and dispersant additives that should not be used with foamed cement slurry it used to seal the bottom of the Macondo well, and the contractor failed to inform BP of problems with the slurry, both before and after the incident.

"Halliburton's knowing misrepresentations were a cause-in-fact and also a legal cause of BP's injuries," the British firm said in its April lawsuit.

US vows to keep warships in Gulf region

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States vowed yesterday to keep American warships deployed in the Gulf region, despite Iran issuing warnings over the Strait of Hormuz.

"The deployment of US military assets in the Persian Gulf region will continue as it has for decades," Pentagon press secretary George Little said in a statement.

The movement of US aircraft carriers and accompanying ships in the Gulf and through the strategic Strait of Hormuz were part of long-standing security commitments, supported US military operations in the region and were in compliance with the laws of the sea, he said.

"Our transits of the Strait of Hormuz continue to be in compliance with international law, which guarantees our vessels the right of transit passage," he said.

"We are committed to protecting maritime freedoms that

are the basis for global prosperity; this is one of the main reasons our military forces operate in the region," he said, without referring directly to Iran.

The Pentagon statement came after Tehran's military yesterday warned that one of the US Navy's biggest aircraft carriers -- the USS John C. Stennis -- not to return to the Gulf, amid escalating tensions over Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

The Stennis, a nuclear-power "supercarrier" that transports up to 90 warplanes and helicopters -- including F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets -- passed through the Strait of Hormuz last Tuesday without incident, according to the US Navy.

The carrier is now in the Arabian Sea where it is providing air power for US-led troops in Afghanistan but defense officials have not said when it might be heading back through the Strait of Hormuz.

Paraguay confirms new foot-and-mouth outbreak

ASUNCION (AFP) - Major beef exporter Paraguay yesterday confirmed a new outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the north of the country, just four days after lifting a state of emergency

imposed in the region in September.

Daniel Rojas, head of the government's animal health service, said a "positive test result" of the highly contagious disease for cattle had

been reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health.

The authorities yesterday ordered the slaughter of about 150 cattle belonging to a rancher near San Pedro, some 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Asuncion.

The new outbreak was about 30 kilometers from an outbreak reported in September, which led to the slaughter of some 1,000 animals.

Paraguay, one of the 10 largest beef exporters in the world, suspended exports in September and was preparing to resume sales to Russia, Brazil and Venezuela.



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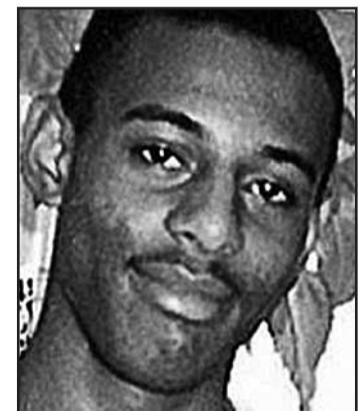
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LEBANON, ADAYSSEH : A picture taken from the Lebanese side shows a fence on the border separating southern Lebanon from Northern Israel, near the town of Adaysseh, on January 3, 2012. Israel is considering walling off a section of its border with Lebanon, fearing sniper fire at newly-built apartment blocks in the frontier town of Metulla, military sources said. Any final decision on such a project would be coordinated with officials in Lebanon in a move which would hopefully prevent sniper attacks during the construction work. (AFP PHOTO)

Two guilty of Stephen Lawrence race murder in Britain



An undated handout picture obtained from the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust.

LONDON (AFP) - A British jury found two white men guilty yesterday of the murder 18 years ago of black teenager Stephen Lawrence in an unprovoked attack that became a defining moment in race relations in Britain.

Gary Dobson, 36, and David Norris, 35, had denied involvement in the knife attack on the 18-year-old at a bus stop in Eltham, southeast London in April 1993, by a gang of white youths. But on the third day of their deliberations following an emotionally-charged six-week trial, the jury at the Old Bailey court in London found them both guilty on the basis of new forensic evidence.

As he was led from the court, Dobson -- who will be sentenced along with Norris today -- protested his innocence, shouting: "You have condemned an innocent man here, I hope you can live with yourselves." His mother called out from the public gallery as her son was led away: "He did not kill that man."

Lawrence's parents Doreen and Neville, who have campaigned tirelessly for justice for their son, struggled to contain their emotions as the jury read out their verdict but wept as the news sank in. Duwayne Brooks, Lawrence's best friend who had been with him on the night of the murder but managed to escape the gang, tweeted: "Some justice at last."

The verdict brings some closure to one of Britain's most high-profile unsolved murder cases, which remained in the public eye both for its brutality and the part it played in the development of race relations. A major inquiry into the handling of the case in 1999 found "institutional racism" within the police and led to significant changes in the way murders involving black victims are investigated.

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Scandal-hit German president faces resignation calls

BERLIN (AFP) - German President Christian Wulff, an ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel, faced calls for his resignation yesterday over a home loan scandal and allegations he tried to hush up the story.

Wulff, 52, has been hit by accusations he intervened to try to stop mass circulation newspaper Bild revealing details last month of a personal loan he had received from a ty-

coon friend's wife.

He left a furious message on the voicemail of Bild's powerful editor Kai Diekmann threatening legal action and also reportedly contacted the chief executive of Bild's publishing house Axel Springer and its main shareholder.

According to media reports, the president told Diekmann that if Bild wanted to "wage war," they could discuss it

when he returned from a trip to Kuwait, from where he made the call.

Amid rising anger at a perceived attack on press freedom, the Financial Times Deutschland said he should step down. "Everything taken together, it's slowly becoming too much ... his credibility has been hit by this plethora of mistakes. A man who is dragging around such a burden can

no longer remain president," the FTD said.

In a hastily called four-minute television statement in December, Wulff had tried to draw a line under the scandal, admitting he should have disclosed a loan from the wife of business leader Egon Geerkens.

Merkel has thus far defended Wulff. Her office, contacted by AFP yesterday, declined further comment.



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Sci-Tech

Murdoch's 'wife' an imposter on Twitter



(AFP) - Twitter apologized Tuesday after a "verified" account in the name of Wendi Deng Murdoch, wife of global media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, turned out to be bogus.

In an email to AFP, a Twitter spokeswoman said, "We don't comment on our verification process but can confirm that the @wendi_deng account was mistakenly verified for a short period of time."

It appeared the fake account was set up on New Year's Day, a day after Murdoch himself -- according to a spokesman for

his British newspaper unit News International in London -- made his Twitter debut.

"Joining my husband @rupertmurdoch in our new digital adventure on Twitter," read its profile, alongside a photo of the smiling Murdochs at the November 2008 premiere in New York of the film "Australia."

The anonymous imposter tweeted Tuesday: "Hello Twitter. As News International has finally come to their senses, it's time to confirm that yes, this is a fake account. I'm not Wendi."

"To those of you who kept maintaining the account was fake, even after being verified, good on you for being suspicious," added the mystery @Wendi_Deng in a lively exchange with his or her nearly 10,000 followers.

"Above all, this was a bit of fun. If you don't think it was, then you'd better ask Twitter to

remove every other spoof account too."

On its website, Twitter says it grants "a Verified Badge" to well-known users, such as celebrities, once it has established their authenticity, for example through a link with an official website.

To which @Wendi_Deng, who disclosed no personal details, remarked: "What verification process?... There was none. I was never contacted."

Australian-born Murdoch, 83, and Chinese-born Deng, 43, have been married since 1999, two years after they met at a party in Hong Kong.

In July, Deng famously leaped out of her seat and counter-attacked a protester who hit Murdoch with a cream pie during testimony before a British parliamentary committee over the hacking of cellphone voice mails by his now-defunct News of the World tabloid.

New chair tipped to lead BlackBerry maker: report

(AFP) - A former banker and stock exchange head could become the first-ever independent chair of Research in Motion in a shakeup of the beleaguered BlackBerry maker, a report said Tuesday.

The National Post, citing sources familiar with a review of RIM's governance structure, said Barbara Stymiest, 55, an independent director who joined RIM's board in 2007, has been tipped for the post.

RIM would only say that a

committee of independent directors were "on track" to study the company's governance structure and report their findings by the end of January.

The board will then respond within 30 days to the committee's recommendations, a RIM spokesman said.

The review was demanded by a group of shareholders unhappy with the direction set by co-founders Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie that led to RIM's stock price sinking

under the weight of gloomy earnings figures.

The Waterloo, Ontario-based RIM saw its share of smartphone subscribers fall to 16.6 percent from 19.7 percent in the key US market after a major outage in October, while RIM shares lost 80 percent of their value in the past year.

The board committee was asked to assess the merits of having an independent chair and of reducing the board roles of Lazaridis and Balsillie, who are also RIM's co-chief executives.

RIM agreed to the governance review last July to avoid a public confrontation with shareholders at its annual meeting. A group of shareholders proposed splitting the chair and chief executive roles to boost accountability.

Stymiest, 55, is the former head of the TSX Group, which operates the Toronto Stock Exchange, and the Royal Bank of Canada's former chief operating officer.

India lags China in research, complains PM

BHUBANESWAR (AFP) - India's prime minister on Tuesday said the country was not spending enough on scientific research, meaning it lagged badly behind regional rival China.

Speaking at an annual science conference, Manmohan Singh said India was spending only one percent of its trillion-dollar gross domestic product (GDP) on scientific research.

"As far as resources are concerned, the fraction of GDP on research and development in India has been too low and stagnant," Singh said in the eastern Indian city of Bhubaneswar.

"We must aim to increase the total research and development spending as a percentage of the GDP to at least two percent by the end of the 12th plan (2012-2017) period," Singh said.

Singh added spending on re-

'20 tonnes of herring' washed up on Norwegian coast



A dog walks around on tons of dead herring on a beach in Kvaernes in Nordreisa, northern Norway, on January 2.

(AFP) - Thousands of herring have floated ashore on Norway's western coast, leaving experts perplexed about the phenomenon, according to the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.

Local media reported that some 20 tonnes of fish were found at the end of December on a beach in northern Norway.

"We have seen herring stranded before but never this much," biologist Ole Kristian Berg at the Norwegian Univer-

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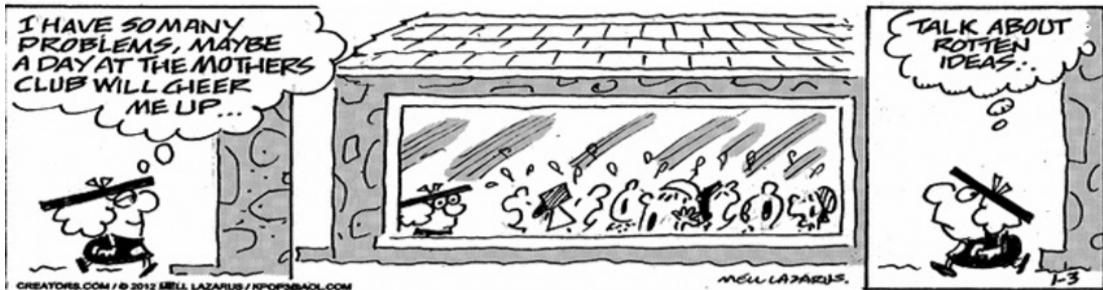
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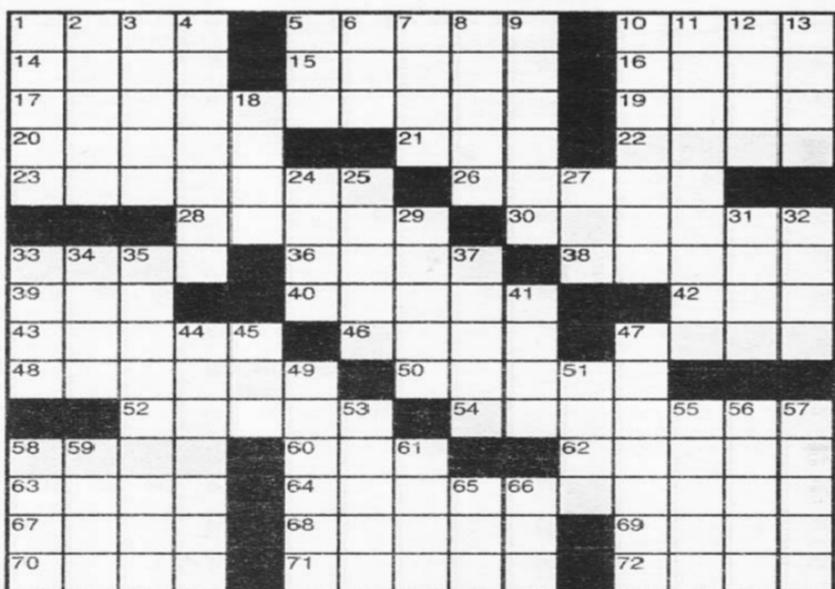
- Singing Mama
- Sonnets and limericks
- Hobo's home
- Incite
- Distribute
- "___ in America"
- Pat Benatar hit
- Siouan
- Lawn tool
- Triumphant exclamation
- Rough shelter
- Cassandra, e.g.
- Valuable violin
- Hinder, in law
- Office workers, for short
- Traveled, asp-style
- Round at the Hare and Hound
- Head of Hollywood
- Soft shoe
- Snoopy's red menace?
- John L. Lewis's gp.
- Prevent
- First name in rumormongering
- Aphid, e.g.
- Proficiency
- Stout animal with a snout
- Illinois city
- Beam
- Farrah's "Angel" do
- Naught
- Brought to a close
- "Sweet Liberty" director
- Stojko and

Kwan
67. "St. ___" (Charles Bronson film)
68. Run down
69. Alternative word
70. Be venturesome
71. City on the Meuse
72. Rod's adjunct

DOWN
1. Sidewalk eaters
2. Persevere
3. Lint attractor
4. Took the tiller
5. Frying ___
6. Senior
7. "Popular Fallacies" author
8. Coffee-chocolate combo

9. Prepares milk for cappuccino
10. Settled down, fowl-style
11. In a risky situation
12. Burn-soothing plant
13. Changed the color
18. Hostile god
24. Back wound
25. Sun-derived
27. Had a bite
29. 1996 Reform Party candidate
31. Singer Redding
32. Inoculation
33. Zoot suit accessory
34. Etna output
35. Björk, for one
37. Detecting device

41. Sonoma's neighbor
44. Issue, as a news story
45. Blasting initis.
47. Computer adjunct
49. Elixirs
51. Rand Corp. commodity
53. Ornamental recess
55. Fred Astaire's sister-costar
56. To the point
57. Henry Ford II's dad
58. ___ Marian
59. Part of TAE
61. Superman's vision blocker
65. Govt. welfare agcy.
66. Author Kesey



SOLUTION

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4	3	5	8	9	6	2	1	7
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9	2	6	7	1	5	8	4	3
2	4	3	9	6	8	5	7	1
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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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Finance

Global food prices remain volatile, new FAO head warns

ROME (AFP) - Global food prices -- a major catalyst for social unrest in the Middle East and Africa -- will remain high in 2012, the head of a UN body said yesterday as he warned there was no simple formula to beat hunger.

"We are expecting that prices will not grow and not drop. There will be some reductions but not drastically, volatility will remain," Jose Graziano da Silva said at his first press conference as boss of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The Rome-based UN agency warned in a November report that while global food prices had fallen sharply in October, volatility on commodity markets is still hurting prospects for world food security.

It also forecast that high prices -- seen as one of the factors behind the famine in southern Somalia and the uprisings in North Africa last year -- were likely to continue "well into 2012".

As unrest continues in Syria in particular, the Brazilian Graziano said the conflict "makes our work more difficult".

"It is expected that we will face problems on food security issues," he added.

Graziano was elected in

June to take over this year from Jacques Diouf, who had led the organisation for 17 years.

He is the first Latin American representative to head the UN's agency, which battles hunger which affects over a billion people globally.

The 61-year-old professor promised yesterday to put Africa first in the fight "to eliminate hunger" in the world.

"Africa will be a priority during my mandate. I will travel to the continent at the end of January to participate in the African Union Summit and visit the Horn of Africa," he said.

Nations in the region -- mainly Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya -- are facing one of the worst droughts in more than half a century, which has caused malnutrition and food shortages. Over 13 million people in the region need aid, according to the UN.

The FAO has described the situation in the Horn of Africa as "inadmissible", and has called several times on the international community to not only give emergency aid but support long-term investments in sustainable agriculture.

Graziano said there was

"no time to lose" in attempting to halve the number of people suffering, and said he would "increase resources destined for Africa."

The former Brazilian food security minister is internationally acclaimed for his role in designing and implementing the Brazilian "Zero Hunger" ("Fome Zero") program, which helped lift 24 million people out of extreme poverty.

Asked whether the program could work in other afflicted areas, Graziano said that it "needs to be adapted to local systems to work," and stressed that it is "very important for each country to find its own way out of hunger."

"There is no general formula to cure hunger," he said. "It's not only governments who fight hunger: civil society and the private sector also have a role to play. We need churches and unions to join the fight."

Graziano, who has both Brazilian and Italian nationality, is expected to kick off his four year term by carrying out much-needed efficiency reforms on the heavily bureaucratic agency to create "a strong and effective FAO".

"I'm committed to bringing the reform of FAO to a satisfactory conclusion. There is still a lot to do," he said yesterday.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

SLID	MAGUS	SCAT
DABO	ABASE	LADE
IMAM	DRIER	AREA
BREAD	AND BUTTER	
SLIM	LEAP	
HUSTLE	SEARS	
ANTI	ACTII	BRA
PEACHES	AND CREAM	
SST	ELENA	ETTE
ARIAS	ARCHE	
STLO	CLAR	
TE AND CRUMPETS		
SEPT	ALAMO	AHAS
AMIE	BASIN	TIILT
REND	SPEND	ESTA

ECB names Belgium's Peter Praet as new chief economist

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The European Central Bank yesterday named executive board member Peter Praet of Belgium as its new chief economist, taking over from Juergen Stark of Germany, who stepped down at the end of 2011.

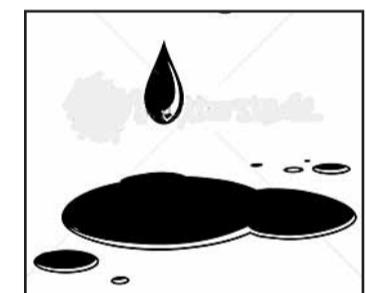
Praet, who turns 63 later this month and has been a member of the ECB's executive board since June 2011, "will be responsible for economics, human resources, budget and organisation" under a redistribution of responsibilities following the changeover of two board



seats, the ECB said in a statement.

Brazil's Petrobras finds oil, gas off Espírito Santo state

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Brazil's energy giant Petrobras said it has found a reservoir of light oil and natural gas off the coast of the southeastern state of Espírito Santo.



A company statement released overnight said the find was made during drilling of a well known as Tambuata, located 74 kilometers (45 miles) off the coast, at a depth of 1,520 meters (4,600 feet).

"Drilling will continue to a depth of 6,100 meters in order to test deeper formations," Petrobras added.

"Reservoirs from the Cretaceous Period, Santonian Age (between 85.8 and 83.5 million years ago) were identified... at a depth between 4,530 and 4,670 meters, and in good conditions for production."

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 01/04/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
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Canada	CAD	1.74	1.76	1.78
Britain	GBP	2.71	2.76	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	190.09	190.81	191.61
Netherlands	EUR	229.69	231.79	234.12
Sweden	SEK	24.97	25.69	26.49
Denmark	DKK	30.21	30.93	31.73
Norway	NOK	29.00	29.72	30.52
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IMAM	DRIER	AREA
BREAD	AND BUTTER	
SLIM	LEAP	
HUSTLE	SEARS	
ANTI	ACTII	BRA
PEACHES	AND CREAM	
SST	ELENA	ETTE
ARIAS	ARCHE	
STLO	CLAR	
TE AND CRUMPETS		
SEPT	ALAMO	AHAS
AMIE	BASIN	TIILT
REND	SPEND	ESTA

Rockenbach delights brunch guests at Windows on Aruba



Sunday Brunch guests at Windows on Aruba received a special treat on January 1st when the Belgian formation Rockenbach performed live in the elegant, top-floor restaurant. Kris Struyven and Harry Hendrickx, both classically schooled tenors, delighted everyone with their outstanding renditions of favorite, light-classical songs. The two performers, who are making waves in the Idols-style program The Voice van Vlaanderen, were joined by Manuella van Geenhoven (soprano) and Hein de Meester. Together with Hugo Ulens, keyboards, they caused goosebumps from even the youngest listeners.

Rockenbach (and Friends) are on Aruba on the invitation of Divi's Alex Nieuwmeijer and Peter Balli  re of the Clown Doctors of Aruba. The group, which has just released their Christmas single Happy Xmas by John Lennon, will perform various times on Aruba, among others in Cas di Cultura for the Arubaanse Kunstkring for a fundraising for the Clown Doctors. Tickets for this upcoming event are on sale already.

Photos show the open-mouthed children, who greatly enjoyed the songs by Rockenbach and Kris Struyven and Harry Hendrickx with Hugo Ulens and Manuella van Geenhoven in the background at Windows on Aruba.

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Elton John wants Timberlake to play him in biopic

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Elton John is working on a biopic about himself and would like Justin Timberlake to take on the lead role, he said in an interview published on week-end.

The British veteran star also spoke about his and partner David Furnish's love for their son Zachary -- whose first birthday was on Christmas Day -- saying the child was the "light of our lives."

An announcement about the biopic is due very soon, the 64-year-old told the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

"That's very much in the works. We're making an announcement about that very, very soon. We have a director on board, and then it's just going to be a matter of getting the script exactly the way we want it," he said.

Lee Hall, who wrote megahit "Billy Elliot," has written the screenplay, he said, adding they will soon start trying to cast and plan production.

On who will play him, he said: "I don't know. I've got a wish list of people. No. 1 on my wish list is Justin Timber-



lake, because he played me before in a David LaChapelle video of (Elton classic) 'Rocket Man' and was superb."

The film will be a "jukebox musical" with possibly a couple of new songs, he said.

"It's going to be a surreal look at my life, and not just a factual look at my life... I just don't want it to be a normal biopic because my life hasn't been like that," he added.

The singer -- who is nominated for a Golden Globe on January 15 for his song "Hello, Hello" from the film "Gnomeo & Juliet," will be back in the studio soon to record a new album -- but insisted his days as a top-40 pop star are over.

"As Elton John, my days on

pop radio are over, and I know that and I accept it and I'm not unhappy about it. It's a different time of my life now, and it gives me the freedom to do whatever kind of music I want to do," he said.

He also paid tribute to Lady Gaga, with whom he duets on "Hello, Hello," saying: "I was kind of like that at the beginning of my career. I dressed outrageously, and I didn't care about boundaries."

The star, who has homes in Los Angeles, Britain and the south of France, said the Christmas just gone was special as he and Furnish celebrated the first birthday of their son Zachary, born to a surrogate mother on December 25, 2010.

"I love him so much. It's a different kind of love for your child than you have for your partner. Everyone kept saying that, and now I realize that, having had Zachary," he said.

"He's the light of our lives. I've had an amazing professional life, personal life, but at 64 to have a son who gives us that much love and enjoyment is, 'Wow!'"

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The cozy little shop can be found tucked away just across from The Cinemas ticket booth, featuring fine quality leather goods with a trendy touch, the best of the current Mario Hernandez designer collection. It also features a stylish selection of the designer's logo unisex shirts and stunning silk scarves. Our personal favorite was a cashmere shawl with MH 25th anniversary Chrysalis motif in suede appliqués; the look and feel of it is simply gorgeous. Shawls and scarves perfectly combine with the buttery leather handbags and accessories for an ensemble fashion statement.

The Mario Hernandez collection encompasses luggage, handbags and wallets of every sort, with specialized functions. "Our men's accessories

are extremely popular; literally flying off the shelves," note the owners. In the two years since they opened their doors, they have found patrons are very impressed with the quality and style of the goods.

Just a short time ago, the design house created an extremely attractive new line featuring the art of William DeBilzan, noted American artist whose work is often seen adorning the chic homes of television characters; he has popular galleries in both Florida and California and his work is exhibited in over 28 galleries across the U.S. and Europe.

Mario Hernandez has been creating and designing products for over 30 years; his name is synonymous with manufacturing excellence and innovation in design. The store in Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach is opened until 10:00 PM for convenient night-time shopping and boasts the latest collection of these timelessly styled accessories, each of them hand-crafted at the Bogotá factory.

by Rosalie Klein

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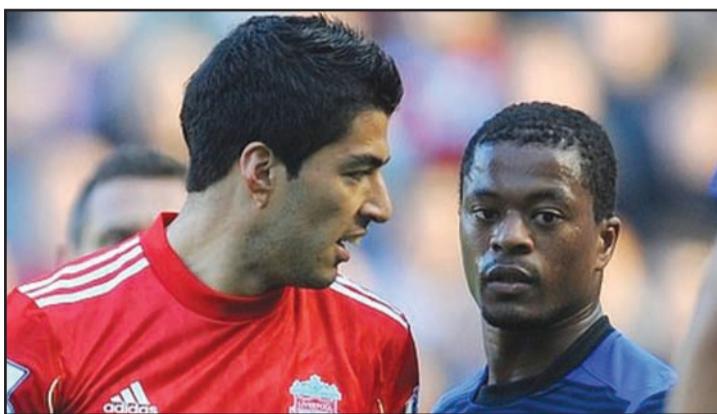


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SPORTS

Football: Liverpool accept Suarez ban



LONDON (AFP) - Liverpool said Tuesday they had accepted Luis Suarez's eight-match ban for racially abusing Patrice Evra but insisted they fully supported the player as he again maintained his innocence.

Liverpool had lashed out at Suarez's ban and £40,000 fine after it was confirmed last month but stopped short of launching an appeal until the full written ruling of the disciplinary panel was released last weekend.

Suarez's ban will now take immediate effect, ruling the Uruguayan international out of Tuesday's Premier League clash with Manchester City.

In the 115-page written ruling from the case released last Saturday, the FA panel said Suarez had given "unreliable" and "inconsistent" evidence during the hearing, where elements of his testimony were "incredible."

A Liverpool statement released on Tuesday maintained that the case against Suarez remained "highly subjective" and was "based on an accusation that was ultimately unsubstantiated."

However the club said it

now wished to draw a line under the affair despite disagreeing with the verdict.

"There are ultimately larger issues than whether or not Luis Suarez has been treated fairly by the Football Association in this matter," it said.

"The issue of race in sports, as in other industries, has a very poor history. Far too often, and in far too many countries, the issues of racism and discrimination have been covered over or ignored."

"It is time to put the Luis Suarez matter to rest and for all of us, going forward, to work together to stamp out racism in every form both inside and outside the sport."

Suarez, who was found to have repeatedly called Evra a "negro" during his confrontation with the Manchester

United defender, insisted in a separate statement he had done no wrong.

"I am very upset by all the things which have been said during the last few weeks about me, all of them being very far from the truth.

"In my country, 'negro' is a word we use commonly, a word which doesn't show any lack of respect and is even less so a form of racist abuse. Based on this, everything which has been said so far is totally false.

"I will carry out the suspension with the resignation of someone who hasn't done anything wrong and who feels extremely upset by the events.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish later said the club remained firmly behind Suarez.

"We stand alongside Luis Suarez as a football club, as we've always done for people we respect and people who appreciate the efforts they've given to the club," Dalglish told Sky Sports News.

"The club have made quite a comprehensive statement, Luis has made a brilliant statement, so we'll stand right beside him.

"That's really, basically, without getting myself into trouble, that's all I'm prepared to say. There's plenty more I'd love to say but I don't think I should go there."

Football: Family first as Beckham rules out PSG move

DOHA (AFP) - David Beckham will not join Paris Saint-Germain for "family reasons", the big-spending Qatar-backed French club's sporting director Leonardo said on Tuesday.

"He will not come to PSG," said the Brazilian, citing "family reasons" for the 36-year-old former England captain's decision not to relocate from Los Angeles to the French capital.

Leonardo's announcement brings to an end months of speculation linking Beckham, whose contract with Los Angeles Galaxy finished on December 31, with a transfer to PSG, which on Friday named Italian Carlo Ancelotti as new coach.

PSG, which play AC Milan in a friendly in Dubai on Wednesday, earlier trained under the watchful eye of new owner, Qatar's Crown

Prince Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, and club president Nasser al-Khelaifi.

Following the close-season purchase of the club by wealthy investors Qatar Sports Investments (QSI), headed by the crown prince, rumours had been rife in the French press that the deal was as good as done.

But other sources close to Beckham had long kept their distance.

QSI strode into the French capital and bought a 70 percent controlling stake in PSG in June, with Khelaifi promising "to make the club a great team and a strong brand on the international scene".

They promptly spent 85 million euros in the summer to attract new talent including a massive 42 million euros forked out to Italian side Palermo for 22-year-old midfielder Javier Pastore.



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NBA: Last unbeatens lose as Heat, Thunder fall

MIAMI (AFP) - Miami and Oklahoma City, the last two undefeated teams in the NBA this season, both lost for the first time on Monday as the reigning champion Dallas Mavericks and Atlanta Hawks celebrated triumphs.

The Mavericks defeated the visiting Thunder 100-87, improving to 2-4 and avenging a loss at Oklahoma City last week, while the hosts Heat fell 100-92 to the Hawks despite a game-high 28 points from Miami's LeBron James.

Miami and Oklahoma City still share the NBA's best record at 5-1 after nine days of a season that was shortened to 66 games per club by a contract dispute between players and team owners.

At Dallas, German star Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points and grabbed six rebounds to power the Mavericks while Shawn Marion added 17 points, Jason Terry added 15 and Vince Carter contributed 14.

Jason Kidd had a game-high nine assists for Dallas and Ian Mahinmi had a game-high nine rebounds for

the Mavericks.

Reigning NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 27 points while Russell Westbrook added 18 points and eight rebounds.

At Miami, Joe Johnson scored 21 points and Al Horford added 16 points and nine rebounds to power the Hawks, who improved to 4-1, just behind Miami in the Southeast division.

Tracy McGrady added 16 points, seven rebounds and four assists for Atlanta.

Behind James, the Heat were led by Chris Bosh with 19 points and Dwyane Wade with 12 points and a game-high 10 assists.

Meanwhile at Minneapolis San Antonio Spurs play-maker Manu Ginobili has been sidelined indefinitely with a broken left hand after suffering the injury on Monday in a 106-96 loss at Minnesota.

Ginobili, a guard from Argentina, suffered the injury in the second quarter when he fouled the Timberwolves' Anthony Tolliver while moving to make a shot. He suffered a break below his pinky finger.

The victory was Minnesota's first over the Spurs in 17 meetings between the clubs and only the second in their past 23 games against each other. The T-Wolves improved to 2-3 one night after beating Dallas for their first victory.

Kevin Love had 24 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Timberwolves while Tim Duncan and Richard Jefferson each scored 16 points to spark the Spurs, who fell to 3-2.

And at New York Utah Jazz forward Josh Howard was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Monday for a flagrant foul, the league announced.

Howard was called for a lesser degree foul against San Antonio's James Anderson on Saturday but after reviewing video footage of the foul, the league upgraded the violation to a level two foul and imposed the fine.

The incident came with 3.3 seconds remaining in the third quarter of Utah's 104-89 loss at San Antonio.

Howard is averaging 11 points and 3.0 assists a game for the Jazz, who have lost three of their first four games of the NBA season.

NFL: Rams, Bucs fire coaches while Colts dump execs

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The St. Louis Rams and Tampa Bay Buccaneers fired their coaches on Monday, one day after concluding miserable National Football League seasons with losses to playoff-bound rivals.

And the Indianapolis Colts, who joined the Rams in finishing a league-worst 2-14, saw chairman Bill Polian and general manager Chris Polian fired by owner Jim Irsay, who kept coach Jim Caldwell.

The Colts were without star quarterback Peyton Manning all season due to a neck injury.

The Rams dumped coach Steve Spagnuolo and general manager Billy Devaney. Spagnuolo was 10-38 in three seasons with the Rams. He was hired less than a month into Devaney's tenure.

St. Louis lost 34-27 to vis-

iting San Francisco on Sunday.

"This was a difficult decision," Rams owner Stan Kroenke said. "No one individual is to blame for this disappointing season and we all must hold ourselves accountable.

"However, we believe it's in the best interest of the St. Louis Rams to make these changes as we continue our quest to build a team that consistently competes for playoffs and championships," added Kroenke, who is the major shareholder in English Premier League side Arsenal.

Tampa Bay fired coach Raheem Morris after the Buccaneers lost 45-24 to Atlanta on Sunday, the team's 10th loss in a row. That is the worst one-season run since the Bucs lost their first 12 games in 1977.

"I have a lot of respect and

appreciation for the passion coach Morris gave to our football team, but this change is one we felt was necessary," Buccaneers general manager Mark Dominik said.

The Buccaneers finished 4-12 after winning four of their first six games, the reversal of Morris' first campaign in 2009 when the team opened 1-12.

"We want to thank coach Morris for all his hard work and dedication as head coach of the Buccaneers," said Buccaneers co-chairman Joel Glazer, whose family also owns English Premier League giants Manchester United.

The Buffalo Bills, who finished 6-10, fired defensive coordinator George Edwards and replaced him with Dave Wannstedt, an assistant coach working with linebackers.

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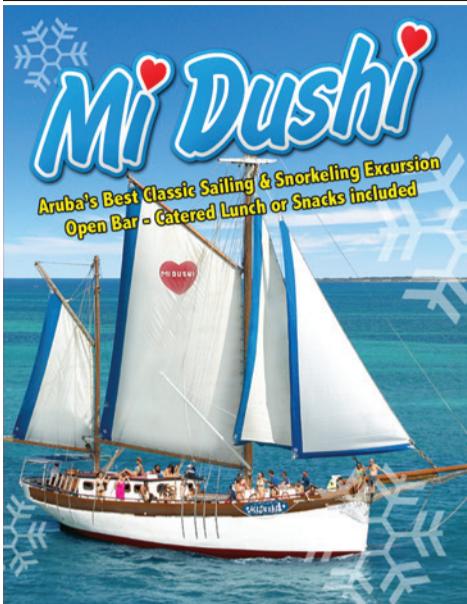
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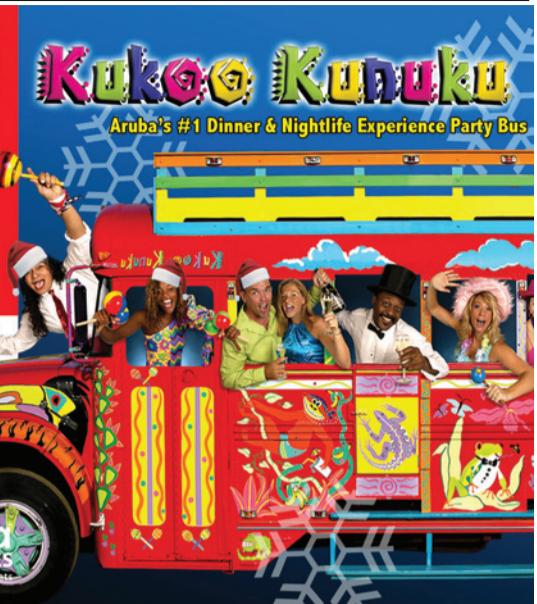
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Tennis: Nadal has a difficult start to 2012



Rafael Nadal of Spain serves to Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany during their ATP Qatar Open tennis match.

DOHA (AFP) - Spain's Rafa Nadal had to fight hard not to lose his opening match of 2012, going a break of serve down in the final set before surviving against an opponent ranked outside the top 40 in the Qatar Open here on Tuesday.

The French Open champion fought back with typical courage in his 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3 win over Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber but it was a patchy performance which left an impression that tennis is a bit of a struggle for him at the moment.

Nadal found it hard to achieve rhythm and consistency with his ground strokes, sometimes leaving the ball short, and allowing his intensity to subside surprisingly during a second set spell when he went 1-4 down.

But after dropping serve in the first game of the final set, the world number two began to hit some more solid blows, particularly with inside out forehands taken from the backhand corner, and finished looking much more in charge.

"I didn't have a chance to practise much, I had problems with my shoulder and knee, and arrived feeling so-so," Nadal said, referring to an off-season curtailed by the late finish of the 2011 Davis Cup.

"So a victory was very important. The beginning was a bit risky but I came back well and played a bit more aggressive."

This was not though the Nadal depicted in his new year resolution, one who aims to become more permanently an aggressive player, taking the ball on or inside the baseline at every opportunity.

"When I say I want to be more aggressive, it doesn't mean that I want to try that every day," Nadal explained. "It doesn't mean it will happen in the first match."

"I need time. But I have decided to play aggressive. This is something which is needed."

Nadal was probably referring both to his long term physical survival on an increasingly arduous tour, and the extra dimension needed to answer the surge of Novak Djokovic, who took over as world number one last year.

He might have made life easier for himself had he converted the two break points

he had at 5-5 in the second set, but Kohlschreiber saved one with a bold volley and another with a pressurising backhand drive.

The world number 43 from Germany also produced some good variations as he tried to deny the winner of ten Grand Slam titles as much rhythm as possible.

But Nadal, who next plays another German, the qualifier Denis Gremelmayr, believes his shortcomings were just some of the normal difficulties in re-acquainting himself with a tennis match. He later came up with a more positive interpretation.

"I was happy with my level," he said. "I think it is really positive I am through, and that is very important. I am happy having matches on the court. I didn't know if I would be here a week and a half ago."

Later Nadal's perennial rival Roger Federer had an utterly different start to the year.

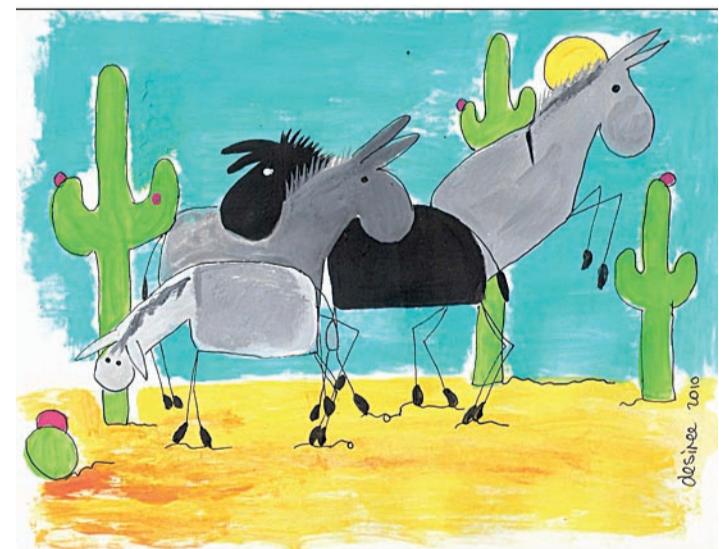
The second-seeded defending champion from Switzerland needed less than an hour to get past the former champion, Nikolay Davydenko, by 6-2, 6-2.

Federer admitted he surprised himself with the level of his performance against the Russian opponent who beat both himself and Nadal while winning the 2010 title here.

"I played aggressively, served well, and I had good movement, which is surprising early on in the season," said Federer.

"But there again every match is new, and I will have to work on my game because every match in the draw is potentially tough."

He next plays Grega Zemlja, a qualifier from Slovenia who won 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 against Sergei Bubka, a wild card entrant who is the son of the Soviet pole vaulter (of the same name) who was repeatedly voted the world's best athlete.



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